

NAVAL HOSPITAL AIDES USS TRUMAN SAILOR

On 5 October 2000, Naval Hospital Roosevelt Roads, Region 15, received notification from the Senior Medical Officer aboard the USS Truman (while conducting training in the Caribbean) that a sailor had fallen fifteen feet and sustained head and neck injuries. The Emergency Room helped to coordinate an accepting physician and the patient was transported directly from the USS Truman to Centro Medico, a Region 15 Network facility. Upon arrival to the Centro Medico Emergency Department the patient was evaluated and diagnosed with a serious head injury and placed on the Very Serious List. The patient was subsequently taken to the operating room, treated with surgical intervention, admitted to the neurosurgery intensive care unit and monitored for 27 days. While at Centro Medico, the Naval Hospital Fleet Liaison arranged for; purchased and delivered required durable medical equipment and supplies and coordinated with the U. S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, the USS Truman, and the Navy Relief Society and Red Cross to have the patients' parents flown down. Funding was provided for lodging, meals and the flight. During the patient's stay at Centro Medico, HM1 Steven Mullis coordinated patient visits, logistical support and Chaplain support to the patient and the family. Trips from NHRR to San Juan were made three days a week by Naval Hospital staff to ensure that appropriate case management and coordination and communication with the family was provided. Upon stabilization, the patient was transferred to the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Juan to begin Occupational Therapy and stabilization for medical evacuation to a Traumatic Brain Injury Center in the Continental United States. After twenty three days in the Veterans Administration Hospital, the Patient Administration Department with assistance from LCDR Bruce Bennett, MC, USNR, staff surgeon, managed the patient movement from the VA to Naval Hospital, Roosevelt Roads for subsequent medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) to the Traumatic Brain Injury Center, Veterans Administration Hospital, Tampa, Florida. HM1 Mullis accompanied the patient on his three-day flight to Tampa, Florida and coordinated all receiving transportation requirements.

The medical care, transportation and ultimate MEDEVAC of this patient was coordinated between the USS Truman, NHRR, three TRICARE Regions (15/3, 2 and 6) a network civilian hospital and two VA facilities.